Access

In This Issue:

Lucky 13:
Network and Information Systems

by Carey L. Draeger
Public Information Officer

NIS staff from left to right are (back row) D. Lamb, F. Wang, P. Groll, M. Lothschutz, D. Michitsch, B. Mills, F. Martinez; (seated, front row) T. Droscha, J. Droscha, L. Struble, T. Macon-Miller and A. Donohue. Not pictured A. Briggs

To the superstitious, 13 may be an unlucky number. But to the Network and Information Systems (NIS) Division at the Library of Michigan, 13 is the total number of trained support staff who plan, install, implement and maintain all of the library's networks and computers. "We're here to provide public Internet services for the legislature and all manner of technical support for all Library of Michigan (LM) staff," explains NIS Director Paul Groll.

Different sections of the Library require different computer systems to complete specific tasks. A library-wide network system handles file and print services for all users. Mike Lothschutz, certified in Novell and Microsoft network technologies, keeps the network humming, and Frank Martinez provides desktop user support.

LMDB, the Library's 4th Dimension database system, provides real-time, relational information that handles all internal business tasks, such as vendors, orders, accounts payable and receivable, travel and

Creating a Preferred Future for Michigan Libraries

by Dianne Odrobina
Legislative Council Administrator

Mark your calendars for September 17 and 18, 1999. You don't want to miss a singular event for Michigan libraries—*Creating a Preferred Future for Michigan Libraries*. This 2-day event will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Lansing. It will be a facilitated, interactive, working session for all types of libraries and their partners to create together an action plan to realize our shared vision for the future of library services in the state of Michigan. The session is open to everyone—librarians from corporate, school, academic and public institutions as well as community and state partners and users. The session is free, but space is limited to 200 participants.

The cosponsors for this important session are the Library of Michigan, the Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME), the Council of Library Deans and Directors, the Michigan Library Consortium, the Michigan Library Association, the Special Library Association—Detroit, and the Special Library Association—West Michigan Chapter. For more information, contact the Michigan Library Association at 6810 S. Cedar, Suite 6, Lansing, MI 48911, 517-694-6615, ext. 24. or you may email MLA at *mla@mlc.lib.mi.us.*

FY1998-1999 Public Library Annual Report

by Molly Dwyer
Federal Programs Team

The FY1998-99 Public Library Annual Report provides prolific information that can be used to interpret the conditions, accomplishments and needs of the libraries throughout the state of Michigan. The 1999 Library Statistical Report, which will be available in the fall of 1999, will enable libraries to reference and/or compare conditions with other libraries within their classes, regions or classifications.
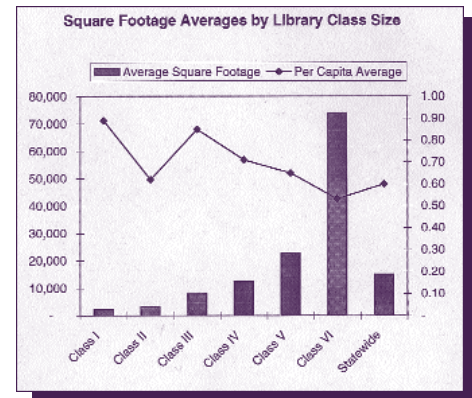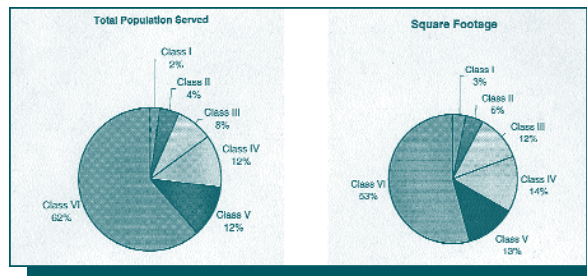
This year's report asked new questions so we could further document and examine the range of services provided to the public, as well as information that will serve as references for libraries. The report asked for the total square footage of each public library. The total square footage includes the central libary and any branches (bookmobiles are excluded). One of the purposes of gathering this information is to document the amount of growth that is occurring in public library buildings and to look at space needs based on the population served by the library.

The following information is preliminary data gathered from the FY1998-99 Public Library Annual Reports. The figures are based on libraries that reported their square footage (377 out of 383), with the exception of the Oakland County Research Library (which, due to its limited population served compared to its ample square footage, would have greatly skewed the results of the library class averages, thus providing misleading data).

The bar graph represents the average square footage for each library class, as well as the square footage per capita for each library class. The pie graphs may be used to examine the percentage of total population as it compares to the percentage of total square footage of each library class.

Though the 1999 Michigan Library Statistical Report won't be available until the fall, preliminary data may be released upon request. Reports may be generated from the various data collected, such as salary and benefit information, collection expenditures, circulation, technology, etc. Furthermore, reports may be specifically tailored according to individual needs (e.g., class size, cooperative, county, library type, etc.). For more information about obtaining preliminary data, please contact me at 517-373-3828 or by email at *mdwyer@libofmich.lib.mi.us* or Naomi Krefman at 517-373-5510 or by email at *nkrefman@libofmich.lib.mi.us*.

Guest @mel to End

By Susanna L. Davidsen
Michigan Electronic Library

For a number of years the Library of Michigan has sponsored a free account called *guest@mel.lib.mi.us* to allow libraries free access to MichNet, the state's dial-in Internet network. Since the use of this service has fallen to a nearly non-existent level and Internet access in Michigan has improved dramatically, *guest@mel.lib.mi.us* was discontinued on June 18, 1999.

Libraries that depended on *guest@mel* for library business should contact Sue Davidsen at *davidsen@mel.org* or call 734-936-2364 for current information about other means of access.

May I Introduce You To . . .

by Carey L. Draeger
Public Information Officer

Bettina C. Graber

two of our trustees—Bettina C. Graber (above right) and Denise A. Forro (below right). Graber is beginning her second term as an LM trustee, while Forro is just beginning her first term. Both are busy, unique professional women who are dedicated to Michigan's libraries. Please take a moment to meet them.

Since 1996, Bettina Graber has crossed the Mackinac Bridge from Munising to represent public librarians on the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees in Lansing. Governor Engler reappointed her to a second 3-year term that will end in December 2001. Her reappointment is a prime example of her steadfast commitment to public service.

In addition to her role as an LM trustee, Graber also serves as a member of the Upper Peninsula Region of Library Cooperation Executive Council, vice chair of the Superiorland Library Cooperative and chairperson and secretary of the Munising School Public Library Advisory Board. Graber is also active in local organizations in the Munising area.

When she has some "free" time, Graber enjoys traveling with her husband (2 of her 3 sons live on either side of the country). They participate in the elder hostel program, which has allowed them to visit many parts of the country. Graber also enjoys quilting, reading, working in her garden and walking laps at the football field near her home. What she likes best is spending time with her brand-new grandson, Zachary.

Denise A. Forro

Denise A. Forro was newly appointed to serve out a term that expires at the end of this year. On July 1 Denise began her term as the new president of the Michigan Library Association (she succeeds Nancy Bujold). She recently accepted a new position as the assistant head librarian of Document Delivery at the Michigan State University Libraries. Document Delivery provides interlibrary loan services and delivers copies of articles to MSU faculty on-campus. She and her staff are currently working to develop and implement innovative programs for expanded document delivery services.

Forro's article "Humor in the Academic Library," was recently accepted for publication by the *College and Research Libraries*. Last year in May, Forro received the Dorothy Millbrook Award from the MSU Office of Physical Handicap Services Disability Resource Center for her work with the MSU Libraries' Handicapper Access Center. Forro lives in Bancroft.

Library of Michigan Foundation Board Welcomes New Directors

The Library of Michigan Foundation Board of Directors welcomed 2 new members. Thomas J. Moore (below) and Jack Winegarden (above) attended their first meeting on April 20, 1999.

Moore is Dean of Libraries at Central Michigan University. He is responsible for all library services at the university. He is a member of the Council of Deans in the university and represents the institution on the Michigan Council of College and University Library Deans. Moore has been with CMU since July 1988. Prior to that, he served as library administrator and librarian in various positions at Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana and the College of New Rochelle in New Rochelle, New York. Moore has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Library of Michigan since October 1994.

Jack Winegarden

Winegarden, a resident of Fenton since 1962, is the president of the Genesee District Library Board. He worked for General Motors for over 34 years before his retirement in 1987. Winegarden has been actively involved in many civic activities—in addition to his service with the Genesee District Library, he has chaired the City of Fenton Library and Museum Renovation Board; is part of the Michigan Library Association Task Force on Funding and Trustee Roundtable; serves on the board of the Community Foundation of Greater Flint and as the Chairman of the Public Relations Committee; is a board member of the Fenton Foundation; and is an associate member of the Fenton Jaycees. Winegarden also served on the White House Conference on Library and Information Services at the state level in 1990 and 1991. At the 1999 Rural Libraries Conference this past April, Winegarden was honored for his dedicated service to libraries large and small throughout Michigan.

Thomas J. Moore

LEVEL VII:
Certificate of Library Experience

by Ed Willoughby
Office of Business Services

Some questions have arisen about the renewal of a Level VII librarian's certificate. The Level VII Certificate of Library Experience is issued to individuals who work in a library, who are high school graduates or have the equivalent (such as a GED) and attend a Beginning Workshop within 2 years of beginning their employment.

The certification is not permanent and must be renewed every 3 years. The renewal may be accomplished by obtaining 1 of the following:

> 32 contact hours of training;
>
> 3.2 continuing education units (CEUs);
>
> 3 college credits; a combination of the above that equals 32 or more instructional hours.

Each effort to renew the certification must be completed during the 3-year period following the date of issue. Prior to the end of the certification 3-year period, the individual should attend workshops and seminars that relate to librarianship. Continuing education documentation should be sent to the Library of Michigan any time prior to the expiration date on the certificate. A new certificate will be issued with an effective date beginning with the expiration date of the current valid certificate. For example, an individual has a valid certificate that expires on December 31,1999. Documentation is submitted that supports the accumulation of 3.2 CEUs. Following verification, a renewal certificate will be issued with an effective period of December 31,1999 to December 31,2002.

All documentation and certification questions should be sent to Ed Willoughby, at the Library of Michigan, P. O. Box 30007,717 West Allegan, Lansing, MI 48909,517-373-7147, or you may email me at *ewilloug@libofmich.lib.mi.us.*

Jeff Johnson
Announces Departure From Library of Michigan

Deputy State Librarian Jeff Johnson announced his resignation from the Library of Michigan (LM) effective August 7,1999. "This is an ideal time for me to make a change," he said, "and also to give the next State Librarian the opportunity to name a new deputy state librarian at the earliest possible time."

Johnson has served as the deputy state librarian for over 14 years; during that time he worked extensively with the public libraries and cooperatives. He also assisted with the federal subgrant programs under the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) and the Library Services and Technology Act. He also contributed to many LM publications. "This job has been a wonderful learning experience for me," Johnson stated, "including the planning for the new building, the automation of many internal library services and the recent development of statewide services based on the Internet."

He credited the strong support of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees, Legislative Council Administrator Dianne Odrobina and the Library staff as key elements of the progress the Library made during his years with the organization.

"I will always appreciate the assistance I've received from past and present Library staff members and from my colleagues in libraries and cooperatives around the state," Johnson said.

"The opportunity to visit Michigan libraries and to work with their trustees and staff has always been one of the best things about my job," Johnson added. "I'll certainly miss that."

Johnson's future plans include additional education and a brief sabbatical which will help prepare him for the next phase of his career. Prior to joining the Library of Michigan in 1985, Johnson served for 5 years as the Woodlands Library Cooperative director in Albion. Earlier professional experience included work with public libraries in Ohio and 8 years in Germany with the U.S. Army library program.

Please Join Us

The staff of the Library of Michigan invites you to join them at a reception to wish Deputy State Librarian Jeff Johnson well as he embarks on a new life journey and to celebrate his 14-year-career with the Library. The festivities are scheduled for August 5,1999, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. in 4 North at the Library of Michigan. Please RSVP by July 26,1999, to Jenny Sipe at 517-373-1580.

Trustees Corner

by Ellen Richardson
Library Law Specialist

The Open Meetings Act

In recent months several public bodies, including library boards, have become painfully and publicly aware of the intricacies of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, Act 267 of the Public Acts of 1976. Although the text of the act may be found in the Library Laws Handbook, a few comments about the purpose of the act and its basic requirements may be of assistance.

The 1970s brought policy makers at the federal level and in many of the states to a renewed commitment to making government institutions "by and for the people." Several initiatives, including greater access to decision-making bodies and freedom of access to information, were embodied in public laws. Michigan's efforts resulted in passage of the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. Both public acts ensure that government will not be conducted in the proverbial "smoke-filled back rooms." The deliberation of public policy in the public forum provides an important check and balance in our system of government.

The concept of the Open Meetings Act is simple: as a public body, a library board must do all its business, except for certain narrowly defined exceptions, in public meetings at which a quorum is present. Meetings must be held in public places. The public must be told in advance the time and location of the meeting and be given an opportunity to address the public body. Minutes must be taken at the meeting and be made available to the public upon request within a short time after the meeting.

Most library boards are well versed in meeting these basic requirements. Trustees know what constitutes a quorum, how to allow for public comment, and how and when to post notice of regular and special meetings. Questions usually arise about some of the finer points of the act. What about closed sessions? What about committee meetings?

Closed sessions are allowed only for the limited purposes stated in Section 8 of the act. Library trustees who have served on boards in the private sector are often surprised at how limiting the exceptions are, especially in regard to personnel issues. Unless the person subject to an evaluation, a disciplinary action, or complaints, asks for a closed session, such matters must be handled in a public meeting. It often takes a great deal of discipline and tact to address these issues in a respectful yet effective way under the glare of public scrutiny. The act also outlines the procedures that must be followed before the board may go into closed session. This is not an easy area of the law. Trustees should make it a practice to consult legal counsel before a closed session is held.

Do committee meetings need to follow the requirements of the Open Meetings Act? It has long been established that library board committees and subcommittees which include a quorum of library board members must comply with the act. What if there is less than a quorum of board members on the committee? Board committees, such as a budget committee, are usually charged with a specific duty and delegated the authority to carry out that duty. Deliberations and decisions are made in the committee meetings which will lead toward the final decision-making by the full board. Recent Michigan Supreme Court decisions indicate that it is probably wise to make sure that all such committee meetings are open to the public.

This is, of course, only a summary of the Open Meetings Act. A comprehensive discussion may be found in Chapter 3 of the Trustee Manual published by the Library of Michigan. Both the Trustee Manual and the Library Laws Handbook are available free of charge from the Library of Michigan. Requests may be made to Erac Rodriquez by calling 517-373-9452 or to Ellen Richardson at 517-373-1299.

MAME Academy VIII

The MAME Academy VII, *Implementing Information Power: Teaming with the Big 6*, will be held August 2-6,1999, in Petoskey. This workshop will be held on the beautiful campus of North Central Michigan College. The number of participants will be limited due to the numbers of computers available for lab sessions. Space will be reserved for individuals on a first-come, first-served basis, when accompanied by the Academy registration form, a check for the appropriate amount and other necessary paperwork.

The week will begin with Cynthia Phillip, coordinator of Library Media Services K-12 for the Grand Haven Public Schools, who will describe how the Big6 (*www.Big6.com*) supports information power and how to use the Big6 for integrating technology and information processing skills into the curriculum. Participants will be given an overview of an interactive website called Filamentality (*www.kn.pacbell.com/wired)*. During the rest of the week participants will learn how to design products using Filamentality and the Big6. Participants will end the week by producing and publishing at least 1 of the following products:

Hotlist - the first step in using the power of the Internet for learning is linking to the sites that are most useful. An efficient process to create a webpage that collects Internet links;

Scrapbook - a collection of Internet sites organized around specific categories such as photographs, maps, stories, facts, quotations, sound clips, videos, virtual reality tours, etc.

Treasure hunt - used to develop solid knowledge on a subject. Gather 10-15 links for a given topic, and then pose one key question for each resource. Learners may synthesize what they have learned and shape it into a broader understanding of the big picture.

Subject sampler - Learners are presented with a smaller number of intriguing websites organized around a main topic. Learners are asked to respond to web-based activities from a personal perspective. More important than the right answer is being invited to join the community of learners surrounding the topic, to see their views are valued in this context.

WebQuest - Learners are presented with a challenging task, scenario or problem to solve. The reason the Web is so critical is because it offers the breadth of perspectives and viewpoints that are usually needed to construct meaning on complex topics.

If you would like more information about the MAME Academy, please contact either Heather at the MAME headquarters at 517-699-1717 or Teri Terry at 810-225-5531 or you may email *terry@pcs.k12.mi.us.*

Pondering the Future: Libraries Beyond the Web

by Anne Donohue
Technology Trainer

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Michigan Library and Historical Center building, the Library of Michigan staff sponsored a symposium on May 7, 1999—*Pondering the Future: Libraries Beyond the Web*. The event helped libraries realize different future goals achieved by cooperating with other agencies and each other. Symposium speakers included keynote speaker Joey Rodger, from the Urban Library Council; Katherine Willis from cyberstate.org (*http://cyber-state.org*); and a panel discussion.

Rodger spoke about three core values that are important to the library profession—the importance of words because they give names and provide stability in communication; the importance of remembering that people matter; and finally that learning matters.

Next on the agenda was Katherine Willis, who gave an overview of *cyberstate.org* and described ways in which libraries can involve themselves. Cyberstate.org grew out of the 1998 Michigan Information Technology Commission (MITC), which convened in January 1998 by the Kellogg and Dow Foundations. Later that year the commission issued 18 recommendations for improving Michigan's state of information technology.

Willis discussed Michigan's standing among the other states. We rank 44th in technology training for teachers and are a 2nd tier information technology state. Fifty-two percent of Michigan adults access the Internet, versus 25-30 percent of U.S. adults overall. The core focus of *cyberstate.org* is equity to access for citizens; the MITC believes libraries are key to providing that access.

The morning session ended with panel of guests who offered specific instances of cooperation between libraries and other agencies. Kathy White, the Coordinator of Volunteer Partnerships at Forest Hills High School, described a program where students go into businesses, libraries, and other places that are willing to accept them, to learn what the work environment is like. Kate Pittsley, from the Michigan Teacher Network, examined the goals of the web site created through the grant. Frank Conner, of the Community Learning Enterprise, described an initiative called the Delta Strategy, which works to create an environment to solve problems by bringing people together.

During lunch, facilitated breakout sessions discussed the morning's events.

Cynthia Terwilliger finished the day with her session on community information networking.

If you have any questions about the program or any of the speakers, please contact me at (517) 373-5508 or you may email me at *adonohue@libofmich.lib.mi.us*.

everything that relates to state aid. "It's the backbone of developing services," Groll adds, "and has been under development for about 7 years." Tammy Droscha and Lynn Struble currently oversee the programming duties.

For most people, that would be enough to handle. But Groll and his staff of 12 are responsible for much more. In order to track and maintain the Library of Michigan's 5.2 million-book collection, the Innovative Interfaces Inc. (III) system was installed. It runs the catalog database for several of the LM collections. It was customized for the Library and requires the attention of 1 full-time and 1 back-up person. Fukang Wang and Beth Mills handle this busy and growing area.

NIS personnel are also responsible for posting information on the World Wide Web. The Library of Michigan maintains 5 websites, including the LM website, the Michigan Legislative Council, an internal private staff website and *michiganlegis-lature.org*. Paul's staff was responsible for developing programs to help post information of daily and legislative sessions. NIS staff converts the information into a searchable database format. They also designed and selected products of the legislative sessions. "NIS did not develop the data, but we designed and developed the means to make it available so that people can use it," Groll says. "The data come from our colleagues in the House, Senate and the Legislative Services Bureau." Server Administrator Dan Michitsch keeps the hardware healthy for the software development efforts of Dave Lamb, James Droscha and Brian Breneman, a collaborating consultant. Teri Miller-Macon, who manages the Help Desk, handles incoming calls and questions related to the websites.

Another major accomplishment for this busy group of computer experts is the Michigan Compiled Laws database. This project provides a unique web interface to a compilation of Michigan laws in force, arranged without alteration under appropriate headings and titles. The MCL database includes public acts enacted by the Legislature; the Michigan Constitution of 1963, as amended; and Executive Reorganization Orders. These are orders issued by the governor that make changes in the organization of the executive branch of state government when considered necessary for efficient administration. The database is updated frequently and features appropriate cross-reference "header notes" to guide the user when public acts are changed. Through its one-of-a-kind web interface, the database even offers users the opportunity to create their own filing cabinets in order to track certain laws and the changes or amendments that may occur. "The best part of this service is that it's available on the web and is free to anyone who wants to use it," Groll points out.

During what little free time they could carve out of their hectic schedules, the NIS software team also developed an online version of the 1870 Census (*http://envoy.libofmich.lib.mi.us/1870_census*). The census officially went on-line on June 8. Another gold nugget from programming efforts in 1998 was the development and introduction of the ability for public libraries to file for state aid over the internet. NIS expects this system will expand later this year to include online filing for the Cooperative Annual Reports and LBPH Annual Reports.

NIS oversees security measures for the LM computer systems. "We dedicate a lot of time and effort to keep up with security standards for our internal networks," Groll says. "Amy Briggs, one of our security experts, devotes a significant amount of her time to consistently maintain tight security." Groll is also certified in various security measures.
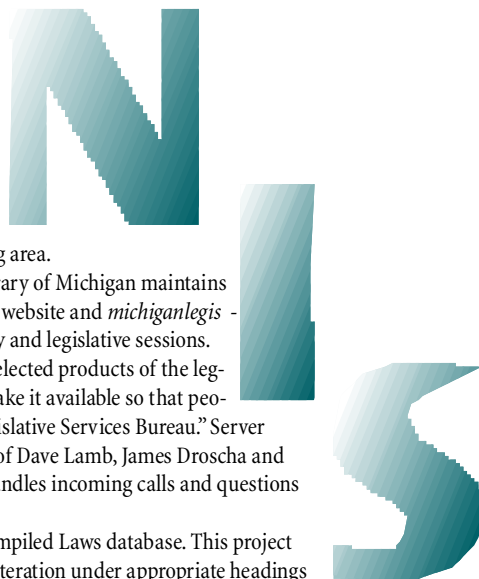
NIS also trains Library and legislative staff to use specific programs and services offered online. Anne Donohue is the person who designs and offers the classes. She also helps train other library and associated agency staff. "Anne and I go to a lot of speaking engagements," Groll says. He adds that some of the more popular topics they address include Internet security, network design, Internet filtering, website development, HTML and Y2K preparation. "By the way," Groll notes, "the Library of Michigan databases and core systems have been moving toward Y2K compliance since 1995." He expects all critical systems will be fully Y2K ready later this summer.

The only section of the Library with which NIS works a bit differently is the Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SBPH). SBPH uses a system that is separate from the rest of the Library because it is dedicated to a single purpose—serving an audience with unique needs. Specific equipment and software are required, so an outside consultant maintains the software. "The software is highly specialized and must be frequently upgraded," Groll says. He adds that Brent Duncan, an SBPH staffperson, works closely with the outside consultant and excels in the onsite management and administration of the system.

Groll wants the library community to know that he and his team are always happy to answer questions from users. "We have email links on our websites so people can submit questions. If we can't answer a question, we can usually forward it to an authoritative source. Together with the LM Law Library, we respond to all LM questions from michiganlegislature.org," he explains.

Groll and his staff take pride in the fact that theirs is a unique service. "I believe we have the best service for users subscribing to our (MLC) database and tracking information. We are dedicated to integrating and synthesizing creative solutions and to providing good support to our audience and for the Legislature," Groll says.

If you would like more information about the Library of Michigan Network and Information Systems Division, or have a question about a computer problem, contact NIS at *lmhelp@libofmich.lib.mi.us*. To learn more about the on-line version of the 1870 Census, stop by the website at *http://envoy.libofmich.lib.mi.us/1870_census*). The Michigan Compiled Laws homepage is located at *http://michiganlegislature.org/law/*. If you would like more information about Y2K, read Groll's column in this issue of Access or visit the State of Michigan Department of Management and Budget's Y2K page at *http://www.state.mi.us/dmb/year2000*.

New Library Cats

by Carey L. Draeger
Public Information Officer

In response to the November/December 1998 *Access* article featuring Deuce, the library cat at the Caledonia Library near Grand Rapids, the folks at the Cass District Library's Local History branch wrote to introduce their library cat. Tiberius, the cat formerly known as Butch, is a huge gray tabby who has been living at the Local History Branch since May 1998. The new library director, Mary Elizabeth Harper, had purchased a historic home that was once a stopping point on the Underground Railroad. The house came with a barn cat called Butch. Because she couldn't add him to her brood of 8 cats, Harper asked Local History Librarian Amy Druskovich if the barn cat could be added to the historical collection. Amy agreed and the rechristened Tiberius (or "Ty") had a new home.

The 15.2-pound feline often serves as a greeter to patrons. In the warm weather Ty enjoys lying on the marble floor of the foyer. He also loves to help people with their research by turning pages of their books and acting as a paperweight. He will-

ingly retires to the basement when patrons with allergies visit, but much prefers his role as the center of attention.

The Cass District Library participates in the Edward Lowe Catsopolis Day celebration by sponsoring the annual Mr. and Miss Catsopolis Contest. Voting for this year's contestants ended May 28 and the results were announced on June 5. The proceeds benefit the library's children's programs and the Exotic Feline Rescue Center in Center Point, Indiana. If you would like another glimpse of Tiberius or information about the contest, visit the library webpage at *http://monroe.lib.mi.us/~cass/clh.html*.

Another library cat that doesn't need to hide from allergic patrons is 404, the Internet Public Library cat, found at *http://ipl.sils.umich.edu/ref/FUN/Cat.html*. Born on January 10, 1995, 404 was created by Jim Ottaviani. He requires little maintenance, only a computer and Internet access.

ACRL Conference Intense

by Kim Laird
Collections Management Services Team Leader

The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) met in Detroit on April 8-11, 1999. The conference got off to a roaring start as conference attendees were greeted by a blazing fire across the river in Canada. The conference theme was *Racing Toward Tomorrow*, complete with a race car motif. Issues of concern covered during the conference included copyright issues, changings in the publishing field, distance learning and scholarly communication. Over 185 vendors attended the conference.

Patricia Schroeder, president and CEO of the Association of American Publishers, and James Neal, director of the Eisenhower Library at Johns Hopkins University, gave the keynote address. During the presentation, Schroeder revealed herself to be a defender of publishers and of the Copyright Clearinghouse's practice of "dropping in" on libraries. Many librarians, angry about this practice, suspect that the CCC is attempting to determine whether libraries are violating copyright.

Schroeder stated that people view the information world as completely available, which for many translates into copying at will. She also voiced concern that everyone will designate themselves as distance learners who therefore are entitled to use all information without charge. Schroeder ended her address by urging librarians to join with publishers to develop common ground.

The ACRL's legislative agenda includes support of the Next Generation Internet Act of 1998 and Internet2 initiatives, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, the preservation of the concept of the Fair Use in the digital environment, monitoring of HR 354 and database protection legislation, work to strengthen and improve Title 44 (distribution of government information to the public), and will support GPO FY2000 salaries and expenses appropriations. For the National Agricultural Library, ACRL supports the 2-million-dollar increase for initiative on Digital Libraries for Rural America. This part of the conference also included a presentation on how to be a successful advocate with the legislature for your library and for library issues.

The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC) formed to lower the prices of scholarly journals. Michael Rosenzweig of the University of Arizona, spoke on "Reclaiming What We Own: Expanding Competition in Scholarly Publishing." SPARC, says Rosenzweig, will provide grants to create digital publications, by offering $500,000 for science, technology and medical journals. SPARC members believe that large publishing conglomerates, which hold a monopoly on the market for many journals, create many of the price increases, which SPARC members feel are unjustified. Rosenzweig's presentation received a standing ovation from the audience.

Overall, the conference was intense and provided useful information about what the near future may hold for Michigan libraries.

Final FY1999 State Aid Grant Rates

The final state aid payments were processed in late May. A total of 382 public libraries applied for state aid monies; 372 libraries met eligibility requirements and received monies from one or more of the grants.

For the first time public libraries were able to file their Annual Reports electronically via the Internet. About half the libraries took advantage of this opportunity. Many favorable comments were received along with some helpful suggestions on how to improve the electronic format. "We're taking all the feedback into consideration and will offer an improved version beginning October 1," said Janet Laverty, Business Services director. "The cooperative and libraries for the blind and physically handicapped Annual Report will also be available electronically in FY2000."

The final rates are:
Public library per capita rate for meeting minimum requirements: $.49958815
Public library per capita rate for cooperative memberships: $.49958815
Public library cooperative per capita rate: $.49958815
Public library cooperative density rate: $9.99176300
County reimbursable salary rate: $4,796.05

AccessMichigan Video Award Finalist

by Ruth Dukelow
Michigtan Library Consortium

The AccessMichigan video, *The Michigan Electronic Library*, has been named an award finalist for the 1999 PACE Awards, sponsored by the Central Michigan Chapter, Public Relations Society of America. The video was produced by LTS Productions (*www.ltsvideo.com*), in collaboration with the AccessMichigan Communications Subcommittee.

The Central Michigan Chapter's PACE Awards Program celebrates excellence in public relations achievement in a variety of communications venues. This year the awards were judged by the Dayton (OH) Miami Valley Chapter. LTS Productions and AccessMichigan/MEL join an elite group of communications professionals whose programs were judged exceptional in research, planning, execution and outcomes.

If your library does not yet have a copy of the video, you may order a copy from AccessMichigan (see *accessmichigan.lib.mi.us/video.htm* for details). If you would like me to fax you an order form, please send an email message to *dukelow@mlc.lib.mi.us* or you may also contact me at Michigan Library Consortium, 6810 South Cedar Street, Suite 8, Lansing, MI 48911-6909, 1-800-530-9019, ext. 21.

Recent Additions to the Library of Michigan Website

By Kathleen Cadwallader
Public Services

and *Cindy Krueger*
Webmaster/Information Coordinator

The Library of Michigan continues to update its website at *http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us*. The most noticeable upgrade includes a redesigned, streamlined front page. From the front page, you can reach the electronic Michigan Library Directory. This directory is updated daily and may be searched by library name, type or location. The directory entries include information from the print directory as well as URLs for library webpages.

Other new items of interest to libraries include applications for the Loleta Fyan Continuing Education Scholarship Fund and results of millage elections from 1995-6, 1998, and 1999.

The Law Library continues to add to the list of selected Michigan Public Acts. Some new acts which have been added include the Downtown Development Authority Act and the Grandparent's Visitation Rights Act. The Law Library's main page received 2,205 hits.

Our site has added new information for genealogists including an updated version of *Beginning Your Genealogical Research*. Genealogists may now add their names, via an electronic form, to a mailing list sponsored by the Library of Michigan Foundation. Mailings will include guides to the Abrahms Historical Collection and notification of recent acquisitions. On June 8, the entire *1870 Michigan Census Index* was added to our site as a searchable database. The Immigration and Passenger Lists page continues to draw requests—over 1,749 were recorded for April alone. Other popular pages at the LM website include the Public Acts page (over 1,800 hits), Michigan in Brief (1,777 hits) and the Guide to Electronic Resources (1,021 hits).

The Library of Michigan continues to update the GPO Access Gateway hosted by the Michigan Electronic Library (MEL). New items include the 1999 Unified Agenda as well as Investigating the Impact of the Year 2000 Problem United States Senate (S. Prt. 106-10).

Finally, the Library of Michigan ANSWER Online catalog page received over 6,100 requests in March and April 1999.

If you have any comments or questions about our website please send them to the Library of Michigan's Webteam at *comments@libofmich.lib.mi.us*.
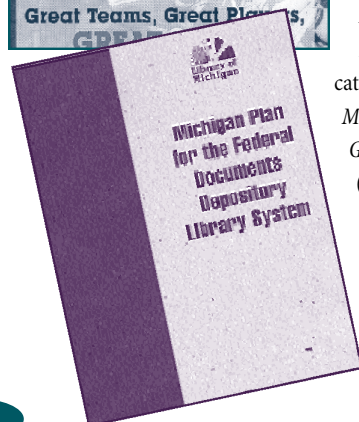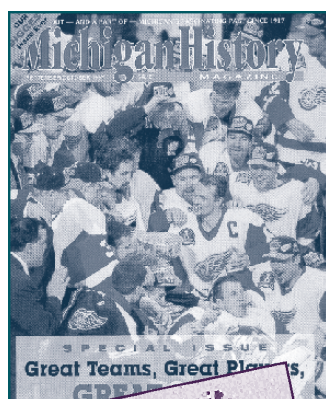
Mahoney Children's Workshop Update

It's time to start thinking about the fall! Mark your calendars sions for the Mahoney Children's Workshop Series have been September, October and November. If you were unable to att sessions in July and August, now's your chance to learn more about children's gardens to build reading skills, journal writing and famil eracy. The dates and locations for the next 3 sessions are:

September 23 — Upper Peninsula Region of Library Cooperatio Annual Meeting, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
October 27 — Michigan Association of Media Educators (MAME) Annual Conference, Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
November 5 — Michigan Library Association (MLA) Conferen 1-hour breakout session

Speakers for the above sessions will include Jane Taylor, retired the Children's Gardens at Michigan State University; representatives Dandelion Cottage in Marquette (who will speak at the UPRLC sess Betty Ramey, director, Oakland County Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Lori Larsen of the Frederik Meijer Gardens will speak at the MAME session.

The Mahoney Children's Workshops are made possible by a grant from the Mahoney Memorial Fund through the Library of Michigan Foundation. The Mahoney Fund is dedicated to supporting children's library services and the use of libraries by all Michigan families.

For more information about registration and fees, please contact Joyce Ruttan, Library of Michigan Foundation administrative assistant, at the Library of Michigan Foundation, P. O. Box 30159, 717 West Allegan, Lansing, MI 48909, 517-373-2977 or you may email her at *joruttan@libofmich.lib.mi.us.*

Michigan Publications Win ALA Notable Documents Award

The Library of Michigan recently announced that 4 Michigan publications were selected to receive the American Library Association's Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) 1998 Notable Documents Award. They are the Library of Michigan's *Michigan Plan for the Federal Documents Depository Library System* (1998); 2 publications from the Michigan Historical Center: *Michigan History Magazine Special Issue: Great Teams, Great Players, Great Times* (1997) and *Michigan History Magazine Civil War Collector's Issue: Thank God for Michigan* (1998); and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's *History from the Hearth: A Colonial Mackinac Cookbook* (1997).

"This is quite an honor and one that is highly sought at the national level by various state and national agency libraries," said Dianne Odrobina, Legislative Council administrator. "No other state received as many awards."

The ALA/GODORT Notable Documents List is created from nominations by librarians and agencies from around the country. The award helps "publicize documents by spotlighting these sometimes elusive gems outside their target populations and of potential interest to many," says Barbara Ceizler Silver, chair of the Notable Documents panel that makes the final decision. "We also help provide information on how to access these commendable items from their agencies."

All 4 documents are available from the 40-plus Documents Depository Program libraries around the state, from the Library of Michigan through the Circulation Desk at 517-373-1360 or through interlibrary loan. More information about Michigan documents is available at the Library of Michigan website at *www.libofmich.lib.mi.us.*

Report on 1999 Rural Libraries Conference

by Marian Thelibrarian
Lake Neverwuz County, Township, Village, District Public Library

On April 26-28 I attended the Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference in Traverse City at the Grand Traverse Resort. The 48 concurrent programs were all super but I'll single out a few that meant a lot to me. Monday, I attended a program on Friends groups. I was sorry I didn't get a chance to tell them about the Lake Neverwuz Friends' new project. After selling an enormous amount of dried gooseberries this year, the Friends purchased 5 all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and they now deliver books and tapes to people living in the more rural parts of the library service area. It's amazing how many men have joined the Friends!

Technology was a big part of the conference. Paul Groll, the "techie guy" at the Library of Michigan did a session on Y2K. He gave us a number of fantastic ideas to solve Y2K problems. Paul suggested I set up a network of Etch-a-Sketch units at Lake Neverwuz. This way, if we get a problem, we just shake them and eliminate the glitch.

I have a long list of romance books recommended by Cathy Carter, the public library star of the widely acclaimed AccessMichigan video. They say in the background during her interview, you can see Fabio.

The highlight of the conference is always the awards program. This year's festivities were held at the Traverse Area District Library. Mike McGuire hosted the event. Jeff Johnson, LM's deputy state librarian, was the emcee and presented 7 awards. I thought it appropriate that in Michigan's wine country, a trustee named Winegarden should win an award. One of my favorite people was selected the Librarian of the Conference—Cindy Poquette.

Becky Cawley did a program on bookstores versus libraries. Borders and Barnes & Noble are becoming our competitors. Our local bookstore is becoming a library-like store. The Lake Neverwuz Library is going to become a more bookstore-like library by providing live entertainment (our reference librarian will sing on Tuesday and Thursday evenings) and food and drink in the library (we'll add a grill at the circulation desk for hamburgers, fries, and root-beer floats).

Bye for now from Lake Neverwuz, where the story hours are great, the librarians are good looking and the libraries fully funded.

Marion is the fictious library director for the state's only library located in a Quonset hut with a Winnebago addition. Her creator is Mideastern Library Cooperative Director Roger Mendel. We apologize to Garrison Keillor and The Prairie Home Companion.

Rural Conference award winners included (clockwise from bottom left): Becky Cawley, Cindy Poquette, Karrie Warrala, Lucy Summers, Gail Nartker, Shirley Roos, Jack Winegarden and Master of Ceremonies Jeff Johnson.

Children's author Joan Blos took time out from her busy schedule to autograph books for her librarian fans.
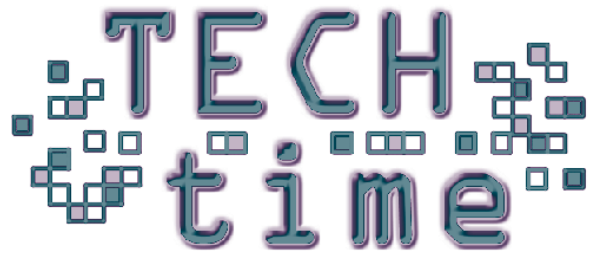

Some of the 400-plus attendees enjoyed sumptuous meals at the Grand Traverse Resort.

Conference attendees found time to admire the map that shows where participants are from.

Why Two What?

by Paul Groll
Network and Information Systems

The scene: a busy airport terminal.
The time: now.

Kelly: Chris! Hey, it's been a long time! Imagine running into you here.

Chris: Kelly, it's really great to see you! Are you coming or going?

Kelly: Just heading out today. Lately, there's been too much of both.

Chris: I thought technology consulting kept you behind a desk. Doing a lot of traveling?

Kelly: Oh, yeah. The Y2K ordeal has me on the run. I've been to work at 8 sites in the past 6 months, and there is no end in sight.

Chris: Why two what? Why two kay ordeal? Is that one of those new viruses or something?

Kelly: Y2K--the Year 2000 problem, the Millennium Bug. You know, where systems that use the date can lose track and fail if they can't keep the century information correct?

Chris: Oh, yeah, I remember some stuff on the news about that. All about January 1 next year, right?

Kelly: I'd love it if it were that simple. There are over 25 dates that have been identified as critical Y2K failure dates, mostly based on how software handles date calculations. Fortunately, almost half of them have come and gone with no major shakeups.

Chris: Wow! I thought it was all about only that single date. Why all these others?

Kelly: If a calendar date is used in a calculation, for, say, a fiscal year projection, then it's possible for the projected date to cause an error well before January 1, 2000. For example, the first day of the typical fiscal year is July 1. If a faulty system computes a number on 7-1-99, adds one year, and gets the date 7-1-00, this can cause all kinds of problems within the system, including failure to work at all.

Chris: Why does it cause a failure? Doesn't it just "know" that it's 2000? I mean, after 1999, isn't that logical?

Kelly: Not to a computer or an embedded controller, such as the kind you'd find in an old VCR. If the device has no way to keep century information and is limited to only decade data, it must rely on some other means to know those first two digits. In many systems the first two digits are pre-set to 19, so after 12-31-99, they roll over to 1-1-00 and then behave as if it's January 1, 1900.

Chris: That doesn't make sense to me. Why does this cause such a problem?

Kelly: Computers keep track of everything using numbers, including time. The best format is to use YYYYMMDD, with all four digits showing the year. As time goes by, every date is a bigger number than those before it. For example, July 1—19990701—is "bigger" than June 30—19990630. With this method, machines will always compare and evaluate two dates.

Chris: So why all the fuss over the new millennium? January 1, 2000 is bigger than December 31 1999, right? If I use your method, 20000101 is greater than 19991231.

Kelly: If you use 8-character dates, yes. Systems that use 8-character dates, in the form of YYYYMMDD will have little difficulty. Systems that depend on 6-character dates, or YYMMDD, will have more to worry about. This scheme doesn't provide for correct identification of the century data. Some 8-character systems will be immune to that problem.

Chris: That's what I remember about our systems—we have Macintosh equipment, and I know they say it's OK, so it must use 8-character dates, right?

Kelly: Well, don't jump to conclusions. Mac hardware and its operating system are OK, but programs that use 6-character dates could be anywhere. So even a database on a Mac can fail.

Chris: So we should throw out all our software and get new software that uses YYYYMMDD?

Kelly: No, that would be a little extreme. Not all software even uses the date. For example, there has been a big scare about kitchen appliances that won't work. My coffee maker needs to know the hour and minute, but I don't really think it cares what year it is, or even which day. There is a website that offers rewards for anyone who sends in an appliance that fails. So far, they have not paid out a cent.

Chris: What should I be worried about?

Kelly: Software is the best-known area, especially databases. My pet worries are payroll systems, software that tracks sick time, vacation, retirement, etc. But software is not the only area to check. You should also verify that the systems that run your security, heating, air conditioning, thermostats, fire alarms, sprinkler controllers, internet routers, network hubs and switches, and telephones are Y2K compliant. I'm also going to pay special attention to backup software, for disaster prevention.

Chris: Backup software! Tell me more about that.

Kelly: Picture this—it's December 31, 1999, and thousands of sites are making a final year-end backup to stave off the evil Millennium Bug. Now imagine the chaos at those sites that discover the next week that their backup software won't work in the new year. They have a perfectly good backup on tape, but can't easily restore it in case of disaster.

Chris: What was that about the telephones?

Kelly: Many TVs, VCRs, and phone systems have embedded chips, or built-in circuits that handle the programming, that work on a fixed calendar. Some will simply "end" on 12-31-99, or won't know how to roll over to 2000 properly. This is something to verify before the end of the year.

Chris: You mean I might have to junk my perfectly good VCR, just because of this one chip?

Kelly: Actually, no. There is a cool trick for stuff like that. The year 1972 has exactly the same annual calendar as 2000—the days of the week are the same, and it's a leap year, too. Just set the VCR to 1972, and all the features should work perfectly. This should work for many phone systems, too.

Chris: Wow! I had no idea there was so much to all this. What more can you tell me?

Kelly: They're calling my plane, so I have to run, but you should look at some web sites to learn more about Y2K. Try these:

http://www.zdnet.com/enterprise/zdy2k/
http://www.year2000.com/
http://www.cnet.com/Content/Reports/Special/Y2000/

JULY IS...

named after Julius Caesar, who reformed the Roman calendar in 46 B.C. In the process he named this month after himself.

July 4	Independence Day
July 9	HTML Boot Camp, MAME
July 14-15	Computer Troubleshooting, TLN & LM
July 14	Mahoney Children's Workshop, MSU Children's Gardens, LM
July 15	Library of Congress Classification, MLC
July 20	Cataloging Internet Resources. MLC
July 23	MARC: An Introduction, MLC
July 28	OCLC ILL Basics, MLC

AUGUST IS...

named after Augustus Caesar, who clarified and completed the calendar reform begun by his predecessor, Julius Caesar. Augustus rewarded himself for a job well done by naming the eighth month of the year after himself.

August 1-6	MAME Academy VII
August 5	Reception for Jeff Johnson, LM
August 4	PASSPORT for Windows, MLC
August 6	Cooperative Directors' Meeting, Paw Paw
August 11	Mahoney Children's Workshop, Dow Gardens, LM
August 13	HTML Boot Camp, MAME
August 16	Spinning a Child-Safe Web: Selecting and Evaluating Websites for Kids, MLC
August 17	AccessMichigan Retreat
August 19	Authorities, MLC Legal Aid for Libraries, MLC
August 25-26	Computer Troubleshooting, TLN & LM
August 31	Cataloger's Desktop, MLC

For more information about Library of Michigan events, contact 373-1580 or visit the website at *http://www.libofmich.lib.mi.us*; for more information about Michigan Library Consortium (MLC) events, contact the registration desk at 1-800-530-9019, ext.10 or email *register@mlc.lib.mi.us*; for more information about Michigan Library Association (MLA) events, contact 517-694-6615 or email *mla@mlc.lib.mi.us*;; for more information about The Library Network, call 734-281-3830, ext.141 or visit the website at *http://tln.lib.mi.us/train/*.

Mark your calendars now for September 17-18, 1999! You don't want to miss one of 1999's most singular event for Michigan libraries: Creating a Preferred Future for Michigan Libraries *at the Sheraton Hotel in Lansing. For more information, contact the Michigan Library Association (MLA) at 517-694-6615, ext. 24, or you may email MLA at* mla@mlc.lib.mi.us.

The Turn 2 Foundation, created by Derek Jeter, the New York Yankee shortstop from Kalamazoo, gave $2,500 to the Kalamazoo Public Library for its Ready to Read program. Jeter and his family manage the Turn 2 Foundation to support prevention-oriented programs that target youths in southwestern Michigan and New York City.

The Van Buren District Library named Vicky Pierce (right, shown here with Lynn Bohling at left), Bloomingdale Branch assistant, as its 1998 Library Employee of the Year. Library director and Library of Michigan Trustee David Tate presented the award to Pierce at the library's annual recognition luncheon, held at the Webster Memorial Library last December 17. Tate said, "Vicky is a great person to on the library staff, and I'm pleased to ent her with this well-deserved award." Pierce began her library career in 1993, working as a substitute. She was promoted to library clerk and presently serves as branch assistant at Bloomingdale. Pierce also writes fiction, music and poetry. Along with her award, Pierce also received a $100 check from the Friends of the Library.

The Michigan Electronic Library (MEL), a part of AccessMichigan, was named LibrarySpot's Library of the Month for March (*http://www.libraryspot.com*). Each month LibrarySpot recognizes one site for its outstanding contributions to the library community on-line. A Library Site of the Year will be selected from Site of the Month winners at the end of 1999. "This colorful and well-organized site is a terrific example of the library community working together," said Lauren Zoolinger, LibrarySpot managing editor. "The result is a fantastic resource for Internet users inside and outside of Michigan." MEL's new URL is *http://mel.org*, but the old address is still active (*http://mel.lib.mi.us*).

The National Genealogical Society (NGS) presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Library of Michigan (LM) at the opening ceremonies for the NGS Conference in the States in Richmond, Virginia. The award honors Michigan as the first state to host and promote an NGS regional conference in Troy, Michigan. Library of Michigan staff members Carole Callard, Charles Hagler, Kyle Ripley and Randy Riley attended the Troy conference, set up and staffed a booth and answered questions about LM services. Callard, LM's genealogy specialist, accepted the certificate.

Around the State

Martha Shin... the Public Libraries of Saginaw, has been awarded the Michigan Library Association Children's Services Division Award of Merit. This award is given annually to a librarian who has made an outstanding contribution to library service for children and young people in Michigan. The award cited Ms. Shinners' tireless work to promote library services to children and young people in the Saginaw area. It was given in recognition of her efforts in organizing an outreach summer reading program with agencies in Saginaw, developing the Parent/Child Workshops and her outstanding work in promoting children's literacy throughout the community. Shinners serves on the boards of several area children's literacy organizations and is active in the Michigan Library Association in addition to her work at the library.

The Rawson Memorial Library of Cass City will be 1 of only 6 Michigan sites selected to host the Smithsonian traveling exhibition, *Barn Again! Celebrating An American Icon*. The exhibit will open March 6, 2000 at the library and continue through April 15. While the exhibit does not open for another 9 months, events focusing on area barns and exploring them in all segments of American life have begun and will continue into the spring of 2000. "We're quite honored to have an exhibit of this caliber in our town," said Rawson Library Director Barbara Hutchinson. "A committee has been working for several months now and a full schedule of events is planned, beginning during the mid-summer and culminating with the exhibit next March and .... e events include barn tours, art .... writing and photo contests, ... es, book discussions and film .... ams. A 5-township barn survey, ... Hutchinson says is a direct result .... of the Barn Again! exhibit, will .... identify rural buildings and .... farmsteads that have con- .... tributed to their communities' .... and agricultural development. .... e it also heightens local awareness ...... ricultural heritage," ..... on added.

Access (ISSN 1051-0818) publishes information about the Library of Michigan and its activities plus other materials of interest to the Michigan library community. Please direct comments or questions to:

Carey Draeger
Public Information Officer
Library of Michigan
P.O. Box 30007,717 W. Allegan St.
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone 517-373-5578
or fax 517-373-5700
Email:*cdraeger@libofmich.lib.mi.us*

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